

# Hernando County Democratic Executive Committee



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June 22, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary  
United States Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

We write to you on behalf of the members of the Hernando County Democratic Executive Committee to request that you deny any new waiver requests, or requests for extensions or expansions of existing waivers that are needed to implement the provisions of two bills signed into law by Governor Rick Scott, House Bill 7107 and HB 7109, which require the implementation of a Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program in our state.

Forcing Florida's Medicaid consumers into the arms of private for profit HMO's will end up costing the taxpayer more and degrading the quality of care consumers receive, as has been proven as a result of a five-county project begun here in 2006.

Studies by both the University of Florida and the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute did not find that the pilot program saved the state money, but did find that Medicaid consumers in the pilot counties experienced "enormous disruption" in their access to care.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to deny any requests submitted by the State of Florida in relation to these two bills.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Zeledon Chairman

Jay Rowden State Committeeman

cc: Nan Rich